

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, and 16 are amended. Claims 1-21 are pending.

The amendments to the claims are based on the application as originally filed, so it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the office action, claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 9, and 16 are amended in a manner believed to overcome the rejection, so reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are respectfully requested.

In the office action, claims 1, 3-6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent Number 672,358 to Dodge; claims 1-2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of German Document Number 1,134,027; claims 1-2, 5, 7, and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,996,796 to Winchip; claims 1, 3-6, and 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent Number 2,210,093 to Morrissey and Dodge; and claims 12-15 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Winchip and U.S. Patent Number 4,585,118 to Plaut.

The applicant respectfully traverse the rejections, since each of Dodge, German Document Number 1,134,027, Winchip, Morrissey, and Plaut lacks a curved longitudinal extension which forms an ascending curved path that is substantially coplanar and opposite in relation to that imparted to the material in the inlet portion, as in the present invention.

One skilled in the art would not look to the cited art for the present invention, since prior art belt conveyors have a slope angle which often leads to difficulty in providing these conveyors in installations to be constructed in reduced spaces, while the present invention provides a belt

conveyor for bulk material, which allows a determined longitudinal conveying extension to lift the bulk material being carried at a height that has not been attained before with the known prior art belt conveyors.

Therefore, claims 1-21 are patentable over the cited art, so reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-21 are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, entry and approval of the present amendment and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In case of any deficiencies in fees by the filing of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiencies in fees to Deposit Account Number 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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